
New Pattern LVC/SCo (US L158) Found in a Canadian Stamp

Steve Koning (#2662)

In 1920 the US Supreme Court rendered its verdict in a case which involved the Lehigh Valley Railroad Co., the Lehigh Valley Coal Co. and the Lehigh Valley Coal Sales Co. These three companies had been accused in 1912 of being so "...united that they constituted a combination in restraint of interstate trade and commerce in anthracite coal and an attempt to monopolize and an actual monopolization of a part of such commerce, in violation of the Anti-Trust Act of Congress of July 2, 1890..." (the Sherman Anti Trust Act). Anthracite was a valuable

hard coal found in the early 1800's in the Lehigh Valley, and during the next 80 years mines were opened in this eastern Pennsylvania region, railroads were constructed, and their owners, trying to maximize their 'robber baron" profits, had entered into interlocking ownership of transportation and of the goods carried on these interstate railroads and were happily restraining competition as much as they could get away with. They also had set up a Lehigh Valley Coal Sales Company in New York to make it appear as if the coal was owned by the latter

when transported. Each of these three companies used perforators.

L156 is the pattern used by the Lehigh Valley Railroad Co. of New York, NY from 1902 – 1917. L156A is likely theirs also. It was in use from 1917-1918. L157 is the pattern used by the Lehigh Valley Coal Co. of Wilkes-Barre, PA from 1908 - 1954. L158 is the pattern used by the Lehigh Valley Coal Sales Co. of New York, NY from 1908 - 1945. L158.1 was the pattern used by the Lehigh Valley Coal Sales Co. of Syracuse, NY from 1938 - 1954.

Sales companies in the USA at times sent reply envelopes or cards with pre-paid postage to potential customers. Some (especially insurance companies) would equip their salesmen with pre-paid envelopes so they could promptly mail contracts back to the head office. For their Canadian customers they would go to the trouble of obtaining sheets of Canadian stamps, perforate them as they would US stamps, and send out the pre-paid envelopes to Canada, either by mail, or via their agents. US pattern L157 has been found previously on a Canadian stamp and is listed in the Canadian handbook as pattern L7. Now a Canadian Sc#167 has been found with US pattern L158 (see below.) It

will be Canadian pattern L11 in the new handbook being prepared by editor Jon Johnson.



An example of a pre-paid envelope with US pattern P185 on the Canadian stamp (Sc#544, pos. 4) is shown below.

